

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, NI,
SUBJECT: YAR'ADUA INTERVIEW

REF: LAGOS 8666

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT' S ASCENSION TO POWER, CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER YAR'ADUA ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN A NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERVIEW. IN DISCUSSING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL PROGRAM TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE, HE STRESSED THAT THE FMG WILL NOT TOLERATE DIVISIVE POLITICS BEFORE THE HANDOVER OF POWER TO CIVILIANS. HE REITERATED THAT THE RECENT DEPLOYMENT OF STATE MILITARY GOVERNORS WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE PROGRAM OF PHASING OUT THE MILITARY. THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE ALSO COVERED.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (LG). CONTRARY TO RUMORS, LG REFORMS ARE NOT IN DANGER OF FAILURE BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE FINANCES. ONLY ELEVEN OUT OF THE MORE
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THAN 300 LGS ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES AND THOSE IN NEED ARE RECEIVING AID FROM STATE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE POOLED THIER RESOURCES FOR THIS PURPOSE. ASKING MINISTRIES OF STATE GOVERNMENTS TO HELP IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WAS NOT INTENDED TO ERODE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES BUT TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE REFORMS.

3. LAW AND JUSTICE. LAWS WHICH THREATEN INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY WILL BE AMENDED WHILE THOSE LAWS FOUND NOT TO BE CONDUCTIVE TO CIVIL ADMINISTRATION WILL EITHER BE DONE AWAY WITH OR AMENDED.

4. PRIVATE PRACTICE DECREE. WITH REGARD TO THE EDICT CONTROLLING PROFESSIONAL'S PRIVATE PRACTICE WHILE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, YAR'ADUA SAID THE GOALS ARE SELF-RELIANCE IN PRODUCTION AND SELF-LESSNESS IN SERVICE. HE OBSERVED THAT THE NIGERIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL NEEDS GREATER POWER TO STRIKE FROM ITS REGISTER THE NAMES OF THOSE DOCTORS "FOUND WANTING."

5. FOREIGN POLICY. THE FMG WANTS TO GIVE NIGERIA A PUSH TOWARD WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE ITS RIGHTFUL POSITION ON THE AFRICAN SCENE. NIGERIA IS NOT OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO AN AFRICAN HIGH COMMAND BUT THE OAU DEFENSE COUNCIL HAS YET TO COME UP WITH A DECISION ON THE ISSUE.

6. IDEOLOGY. ON THE QUESTION OF IDEOLOGY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE CHIEF OF STAFF SAID "THE MILITARY ADMINISTRATION BELIEVED THAT ACTIONS COULD BE INTRODUCED LEAVING THE PROBLEM OF IDEOLOGY TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PEOPLE." SUCH ACTIONS INCLUDED "THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC) SCHEME, THE OPERATION FEED THE NATION (OFN) SCHEME, SELF RELIANCE AND LOW PROFILE STANCE OF THE ADMINISTRATION."

7. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. THE CHIEF OF STAFF STATED THAT THE FACT THAT THE COUNTRY WAS BECOMING A HUGHE CONSUMER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURY GOODS. HE MAINTAINED THAT THERE WAS NEED TO RESTRICT THE TASTE OF THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEIR DEMANDS FOR THE BANNED GOODS FAR OUTSTRIPPED THE SPEED AT WHICH THEY WERE PRODUCED IN NIGERIA. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

8. COMMENT:
YAR-ADUA'S STATEMENT THAT ONLY ELEVEN LGS ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES PROBABLY DOES NOT INCLUDE MANY THAT ARE SHAKY BECAUSE OF CORRUPTION ON THE PART OF COUNCILLORS BUT THAT HAVE NOT YET HAD TO BE BAILED OUT. THE GENERAL STATEMENT THAT LAWS FOUND NOT TO BE CONDUCTIVE TO CIVIL ADMINIS-

TRATION WILL EITHER BE DONE AWAY WITH OR AMENDED
MAY BE INTENDED TO PAVE THE WAY TOWARD RESOLUTION
OF BOTH THE LAND USE AND PRIVATE PRACTICE
DECREE SQUABBLES. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER,
LAGOS STATE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH DR. OLAMBIWONNU
RECENTLY TOLD POLCOUNS THAT LAGOS STATE DOCTORS
ENDED THEIR 15-DAY STRIKE IN THE MIDDLE OF
JULY ONLY WHEN THEY RECEIVED YAR'ADUA'S ASSURANCE
THAT THE PRIVATE PRACTICE DECREE, WHILE REMAINING
ON THE BOOKS, WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. END
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